

# • C o u n t e r p o i s e •

## The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

December 2008

Number 12



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: December 11, 2008 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post  
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

## Mother Goose Parade 2008



**Next Meeting**  
**Vote for Officers and Board**  
**&**  
**Ham of the Year**

## 2008 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Secretary	N6ERD	Dan Severance	449-8526
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

## 2008 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
	KF6KE	Richard West	462-2771

## 2008 Standing Committees

Bylaws	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Health & Welfare	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Historian	KI6QDB	Paul Weekley	
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W2IRI	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Social Chair	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535

## Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
KO4QT	Steve	Vice President
N6ERD	Dan	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
AE6CQ	Michael	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
WA6L	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

### SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North  
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP  
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics  
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS  
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month  
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

## From The President

**Paul KC6QLS**



Wow! The ARCEC has had an exciting year. We kicked off the year by meeting our fund raising goal of \$2,500.00. With the help of Paul Schmidt, K6PKS, and the SURF, who actually put us over our goal with their kind donation, the ARCEC met its goal to purchase and donate Amateur Radio equipment to CAL FIRE's VIP Red Flag Patrol Program. Thank you to all who donated.

The ARCEC overcame the obstacles created by the shed break in and theft of club equipment just ten days before Field Day by pulling together and loaning lots of equipment for Field Day. Thank you to Ken Cohen, KI6HRH, for donating a generator to the ARCEC; it will be used for many years to come. Our Field Day goals this year were to involve more youth, increase the number of visitors to our site, conduct a testing site, and to provide educational opportunities. At Field Day children and adults enjoyed participating in T-Hunts led by Joe Coronas, N6SZO, and other T-Hunters. Also, Len Fulbright, K5WFW, displayed and discussed his "To Go Kit". With everyone's help Field Day went on as planned, and we met all our goals. Thank you to all for making Field Day a success!

In addition to providing educational opportunities at Field Day, the ARCEC met its goal to educate the public about Amateur Radio through our Kids Best Amateur Radio Booth at the at San Diego Fair. Then, through the efforts of Tom Christian, N6TNC, the Navy donated a 100' Communications Tower Trailer to the ARCEC, and this was deployed at the Fire Station Open House and at the Fall Festival to show the public what Amateur Radio communications and emergency communications are all about. Ed Felter, AI6O, reported that he could see the tower antenna two element HF Yagi rotating about 1/2 mile away from the Fall Festival. The tower will be a great educational tool as well as being used at Field Day and other deployments. Thank you to Tom N6TNC for your efforts and thank you to all who volunteered to make these events successful.

The Mother Goose Parade was November 23, 2008, and a big thanks to all who participated and made this event a success. Getting the word out about Amateur Radio originally started with the parade, and it has evolved into many other opportunities for the ARCEC to be Radio Active in our community. It is our goal to continue to educate the public about Amateur Radio and its role in the community during emergency situations. I have enjoyed



Continued on Page 11

## Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting  
13 November 2008



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by club President Paul Rios, KC6QLS at 1905hrs.

After the pledge, visitors were welcomed.

Before the president's report, Rich, N6NKJ presented a duo-band radio to Hollis, KI6PKX as he did not have a radio. The radio was donated by Dan Briggs, KB6OKR.

SECRETARY'S report was approved as published in the *Counterpoise*.

TREASURER Panger, KD6JCW gave the treasurer's report. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

HOME BREW contest is this evening's program. The three judges were introduced to the membership.

WAMO Chairman, Mike, AE6CQ awarded WAMO certificates for the contacts with club members during the WAMO net.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE report was given by Ann, KC6TBG. The nominees are as follows:

President: Paul Rios, KC6QLS

Vice President: Steve Weed, KO4QT

Secretary: Michael Maston, N6OPH

Treasurer: Gary Kuske, W6GRK

Board of Directors (6):

Ann Rios, KC6TBG

Gordon Shackelford, AE6QW

Rich Beisigl, N6NKJ

Mike Oberbauer, KG6TDP

Larry Plummer, AE6AV

Linda Weed, KI6JUD

Ed Pyne, KF6ROE

Ken Cohen, KI6HRH

Axel Bruderer, KI6RRN

There were no further nominations from the floor. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. Motion was carried.

HAM OF THE YEAR nominations: The following nominations were offered for Ham of the Year, 2008: Mike, N6OPH; Tom, N6TNC; Paul, K6PKS; Mike, KG6TDP; Steve, KO4QT; Gordon, AE6QW; Axel, KI6RRN and Tom, W5COM. It was moved and seconded that the nominations for Ham of the Year be closed. The Motion was carried. There will be a write up in the *Counterpoise* on each of the Ham of the Year contestants. The write ups are to be submitted by the end of tonight's meeting by the individual who made the nomination.

HOME BREW CONTEST: Entrants presented their projects for judging. During the judging, the break then ensued.

After the break, the winners of each of the Home Brew categories were announced.

The winners are for Novice: Axel, KI6RRN; Kit John, WA6L; Antenna, first place was Tom, W5COM and second place was Larry, AE6AV; Expert (extra) was Pat first place for his weather station and second place for his 10m beacon with battery pack.

PRESIDENT Rios, KC6QLS announced that the December meeting and Christmas Party is scheduled for 16 December at the Home Town Buffet in El Cajon. The tower was displayed during the Fall Festival. Mother Goose Parade is cutting back and there may not be as many floats or divisions. Paul noted that QST published the picture of the Amateur Radio Exhibit that was displayed at the Serra Mesa Library along with a short write-up. See page 100.

VICE PRESIDENT Weed was not able to attend the Fall Festival of 25 October. However, it was a success in exposing amateur radio to the public. Mother Goose Parade is on 23 November. There will be both 2m and HF operation on the float. December meeting will be the election of officers and voting for the Ham of the Year.

SANDARC report was given by Len K5WFW. The logo contest for the 2010 convention is ongoing. This contest is due to close on 1 January 2009. The winner would be selected by the convention committee during it's January meeting. The October meeting was the last for the year as SANDARC does not meet again until January, 2009.

ARRL report was given by Steve, AD6VI. Salvation Army is setting up a HF station. They need a 600 watt tuner for this station. This is at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue location.

MEMBERSHIP report was given by Ann, KC6TBG. A total of \$250 membership money was collected this evening. A total of 49 members attended this meeting along with 1 visitor who is the Pastor of the church in which we meet.

EDUCATION report was given by Mike, N6OPH. Discussion centered on the availability of examiners at the end of any technicians classes. Mike, N6OPH outlined some of the problems that he has encountered in the 7.5 years of teaching these classes. The church would allow the club to use the Chase Lipton House for the training with no time limits on Tuesday evening. The locating of students and SANDARC volunteer examiners was the main point of the discussion. This discussion would be continued before January and an announcement would be made concerning possible technician classes that would be held in January 2009.

PUBLIC SERVICE report was given by Rich, N6NKJ. The meeting was adjourned at 2058hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael P. Maston, N6OPH  
Recording Secretary for N6ERD



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## From The Vice President KO4QT Steve



Our "Homebrew" contest was a huge success due to the efforts of Axel KI6RRN, John WA6L, Tom W5COM, Larry AE6AV and Pat WA6MHZ. Axel entered and won the "Novice" category with a 2 meter "T" hunt antenna. John entered and won our new "Kit" category with a 20m QRP CW transceiver. Tom and Larry entered the "Antenna" category. Tom took the top prize with his 2 meter thru 40 meter TAK-Tena beam antenna and Larry took second place with his multiband mobile antenna. Pat brought 2 entries for the "Expert" category. One was a 10 meter beacon with a backup battery and the other was an APRS Weather Station complete with gel cell battery and J Pole. The APRS Weather Station won.

Plans are coming along well for the Mother Goose Parade. Paul KC6QLS, Michael AE6CQ, Carl KI6FIF and I are going to meet Wednesday Nov 19<sup>th</sup> to install the "float" frame on the trailer. The Mother Goose Parade is Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We'll meet the morning of the parade at 222 W Madison in El Cajon at 7:30am to put the final touches on the Float before moving it to the "Staging area". If you're interested in riding on or walking behind the float, give me a call at (619)733-2320 or email me at [ko4qt@hotmail.com](mailto:ko4qt@hotmail.com).

At our December meeting we will be electing our Club Officers and Board Members for 2009 as well voting for Ham of the Year. We'll know who our new Officers are by the end of the meeting but you'll have to come to the Club Christmas Party to find out who made Ham of the Year.

Speaking of the Christmas Party, it will be held Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Hometown Buffet, 390 W Main Street in El Cajon. Dinner will be at 6:00pm and prize drawings will begin around 7:00pm. Feel free to bring your families with you.

73's and I hope to see you soon  
Steve KO4QT

### WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Axel	KI6RRN	Donut Net

### WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights  
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:  
8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeater

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

### New Donut Net

Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Day: Monday Night  
Mode: FM  
Frequency: Club Repeater System

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Bring your Donuts. GOT MILK?

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

## Calendar of Events December 2008

Dec.	2:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Dec.	6:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Dec.	6:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Dec.	11:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Dec.	11:	ARCEC Elections
Dec.	16:	Christmas Dinner Party
Dec.	18:	Counterpoise Dead Line
Dec.	20:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Dec.	20:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm

### Upcoming Event Dates

Jan. 1: 2009 Membership Dues Due

LAKE SIDE MUFFLER & WELDING  
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR



GARY YATES  
OWNER

(619) 561-3202

12461 WOODSIDE AVE.  
LAKE SIDE, CA 92040



Tom Mc Duffie KM6K, Manager  
5375 Kearny Villa Road  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: [www.wa6bgs.org](http://www.wa6bgs.org)

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

## Change of Address

### Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call \_\_\_\_\_ WAMO# \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New Address:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Membership Chairperson:

A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

## ARCEC Membership Application

Please print clearly, complete all info and return to Membership Chair with your payment:

( ) Individual Membership \$18.00

( ) Family Membership \$30.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of License: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Family Members and Calls: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ WAMO #: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: ( ) New Member ( ) Renewal

( ) Returning Member

\*If you are a returning member, you will keep your original WAMO #. \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: I want to receive the Counterpoise Newsletter by: ( ) Mail ( ) Email ( ) Website

Check One: I give my permission to publish my info on the Club Roster ( ) Yes ( ) No

If no, state exactly what information you do not want published: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: ARRL Member ( ) Yes ( ) No

ARES Member ( ) Yes ( ) No

RACES Member ( ) Yes ( ) No

Would you like to be in the Counterpoise Spotlight? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Would you like to be a member of The East County Response Team? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Mail with payment to:

Membership Chair, ARCEC, P.O. Box 50  
El Cajon, CA 92022

### Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

# FUN PAGE

## Birthday

Dec. 1	K6PZE	Richard	Gird
Dec. 1	KK7MQ	Jeff	Chambers
Dec. 4	KD6WFT	Lee	Darter
Dec. 6	KC6QLS	Paul	Rios
Dec. 7	KI6DTA	Gloria	Lyons
Dec. 8	KD6JXR	Tom	Walker
Dec. 11	K7VP	Virgil	Pattin
Dec. 12	KI6EEL	Bridget	Rios
Dec. 16	KB7NG	Bob	Bostick
Dec. 18	K6PKS	Paul	Schmidt
Dec. 19	N6FRX	Tom	Thompson
Dec. 19	KF6YVK	Mary	Durante-Le Leu
Dec. 20	KI6BUS	Byron	Ellsworth
Dec. 20	NO CALL	Ruth	Rogers
Dec. 21	KC6TBG	Ann	Rios
Dec. 22	KN6HP	Lee	Sheeler
Dec. 23	KD6CYS	Claude	Gunnersen
Dec. 25	KF6XB	Russ	Davison Jr
Dec. 26	K7URR	Larry	Johnson
Dec. 29	K7BAV	Jim	Gould
Dec. 29	KI6DZG	Nicholas	Lang
Dec. 30	KD6YAT	Jim	Logan
Dec. 30	KE6THZ	Paul	Adams
Dec.	KI6IAR	Bill	Shaw
Dec.	NO CALL	Carrie	Brummund

## Word Search

W Y T K D S J C N W O T E M O H  
T S F R H T W T L P H Y D O Y E  
K Z W J W F R I E N D S X C C T  
S A M T S I R H C K S E Z I R P  
E H D X D G S J F Y C W V K W D  
L F H H S H F W S F S R D R A Z  
D S T D C N P S K A E F O S J X  
N A R W F W O E X S O T O H P Y  
A A W O R S H I P H W Y W C I S  
C Z X T J K C R T K X T N A H T  
D N C D T X T O W A Z X E K S J  
F A M I L Y S M Y Z R P K W R S  
D W Z N R K C E R F H B H F E X  
Y K A N S H J M S C S Y E Q B D  
S F P E T A R O C E D X J L M W  
A Z H R F Z D H Y F J A T S E D  
K T D T H A K U N A H K H F M C

- |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CANDLES      | <input type="checkbox"/> HOMETOWN   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CARDS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ICOM       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CELEBRATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> KENWOOD    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTMAS    | <input type="checkbox"/> KWANZAA    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DECORATE     | <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DINNER       | <input type="checkbox"/> MEMORIES   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY       | <input type="checkbox"/> PHOTOS     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRIENDS      | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIZES     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIFTS        | <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HANUKAH      | <input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP    |

## Brain Thinkers

- 4= T. FDR E. P.      4 Terms FDR Elected President
- 10= A. in the B. of R.      10 Amendments in the Bill of Rights
- 21= G. S. for the P.      21 Gun Salute for the President
- This Months -----
- 3= W. M. and a B.
- 8= D. in H.
- 12= D. of C.

## Last Months Word Search

T J H O M E B R E W Q U F J T Y  
A K X G S Q H V D Y U S H S S  
E S E C R E T A R Y S V R C K C  
H D S W J Y K W X H O W F K H O  
F G O E K W G U Q G U F B D T M  
B J L X M D J V F Z F R M J A P  
U W D H F B F K J E C E E D E O  
L Y R U F D V D H S J D S W X E  
D C W X W V D X N O K D R S H N  
N K Y K E F E Z G W E A Q J J T  
H E G F N X W R D H V N O U W F  
G U U T U B E G O G D T B O K H  
W O F J Y G F K S F V O T E F W  
U E L E C T I O N S U W R E D S  
T R E A S U R E R X Q Y K Q L S  
J F Y G U Q H J K S F H W U H J

# ASK AN ELMER

The question this month is, "Now that I got my vehicle set-up, how about the QTH?" You will have a few scenarios to choose from. From the down and cheep quick station to the dream station like some of the "Big Guns" in Amateur Radio. Of course, it is all related to cash flow.

The first scenario if the cash flow is small and you just want to get on the air from your QTH. You could just use your HT and there you have it. Not quite, now if you want to have a station up and running most of the day, and you have a hard time hitting that one repeater just over the hill, and you plan to set up a VHF and a UHF station only, you could wait and see what you might get under the tree or for your birthday.

Let's start off with the power issue; find a good power supply 35 to 40 AMPs like the Alinco DM-330MV. With this one you have enough AMPs to run that HF Rig when you get one. You also have ports to run power to other ham gear like lights for a power meter. If you are going to run only one rig, you do not need a power diverter or power panel like the RR/4005 Rigrunner. Next, you look for a Rig, a good mobile unit will work. Most operators use them for a quick FM Rig. If you like to work Side Band, then you will have to look at a rig like an all mode unit similar to the IC-706MIIG, IC-746 or the IC-910H. If you can find a good IC-706MIIG, IC-746, you have the HF and VHF and UHF issues solved. Now that you have the power and rig addressed, let's look at the antenna. For this scenario you have a dual band FM mobile rig and you just want to hit that repeater just over the hill that you can't hit with your HT. You live in a CC&R "anti-antenna zone", you have to go into stealth mode. Ventenna make a good 2M/440 dual band antenna model number VT-27 or you could try a good dual band mobile antenna with the most gain on a mag mount. I used the mag mount for years on top of the refrigerator, and then one day this Ventenna showed up on the roof with some coax to the window. For years this worked; the coax was hidden from view, and if you looked real hard, one of the vent pipes was about 8 to 10 inches l

onger than the rest of the vents. Then, we moved and I could not put up any antenna system I could dream up. Now for the coax, this will work for all the scenarios, get the best you can afford. You will find Mini 8X works real good of the dual band setup. You can even use it for HF. Whatever you do, do not forget to tune that antenna.

The second scenario is you have the dual band FM rig setup and you live in a home with some CC&R "anti-antenna zone." You upgraded to General and you just received a TS-440S rig you won on eBay. Now you have to go into stealth mode again for the antenna. The question is what bands are you going to work on? Just a one or two or all of them will determine what kind of stealth antenna you can hide. Let's say you like 40 & 20 meters and your roof is long enough for a home brew 40 meter bazooka antenna made from Mini 8X coax. Somehow this antenna got on the roof and your tuner tunes it flat. Or you can try running a wire along a fence or even the flag pole in the yard idea. Some other time in the "Ask an Elmer" column we will address the Stealth Antenna.

The 35 AMP power supply should handle the TS-440S and the dual band FM Rig; just keep an eye on the meter to see the power output. You may have to throttle back the HF Rig to 75 watts instead of the 100 watts. This is where it's nice to have that Rigrunner installed so you can run more the one rig with ease.

Now for the Dream Station, like some of the "Big Guns" on the air: For this scenario, the QTH is located high in the hills with no excessive noisy power lines or neighbors to complain about unsightly antennas. We went down to our local candy store and purchased the new IC-7800 200 Watt Transceiver and the 1KW Linear Amplifier, and we added another piece of equipment; the PS-20 External Speaker. To round it all off and sound really good, we added the Heil Classic Pro



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**The Editor's  
Corner  
KC6QLS Paul**



**Editor's Corner**

It's been a busy year and the Counterpoise has had a number of changes this year. First and foremost, it is now available by email and online, and this is a great savings to the club. If you wish to continue to receive the Counterpoise by mail for 2009, please email me at [kc6qls@cox.net](mailto:kc6qls@cox.net) or sign up on the "Counterpoise by Mail List" at the meeting so that your name will remain on the mailing list.

Second, we have had a number of new columns, the latest being "Ask an Elmer", and received a lot of positive input from club members. Please continue to send me your questions for "Ask an Elmer" and your ideas and stories for the Counterpoise.

Last but not least, thank you to all the Counterpoise Staff and all those who have contributed to the Counterpoise throughout the year. This is your newsletter and your ideas, photos and contributions are what make this newspaper great!

73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS Editor

**Public Relations**

Where should we start? This is one of the most Radio Active Clubs in San Diego County. We have been on TV News, News Print and even on line. I have done my best to get the word out about Amateur Radio. CAL FIRE was the big story; two in QST and the local TV Media ran many pieces on the news. Did you see all the Green Shirts? Next, the Tower at Open House went over well, and it's a go for next year. Also, we staffed CAL FIRE and Padre Dam for the Golden Guardian Drill.

Then, last month was the Mother Goose Parade. WOW! Fun was had by all! And more AIR time for the TV. Did you see the article on page 100 of the November QST about the SANDARC display at the library? The display will be moving around the County and City libraries all year long.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone that helped with Field Day '08. With the loss of the gear and everyone that came together, I believe this was one of the best we had in a long time. We had more attend in '08 than in past years.

Bee Radio Active! Paul Rios, KC6QLS

# Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events  
Speakers and Program Ideas

## E-Mail

Address for the Counterpoise. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:  
[WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net](mailto:WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net)

## Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

## Things to keep in mind

*Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector*

*To sign up visit:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

## Quote of the Month

"Good company and good discourse are the very sinews of virtue."

- Ibid.

## JOKE

What do you call a cow with no legs?

Ground Beef....

Lisie KI6EEK





# Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



## Crest Radio Museum A Re-Uniting!

Around 1980 or so, I was at the Santee Swapmeet looking for treasures when I came across a beat up Heathkit SB-301. This one was highly modified, where someone had taken off the usual green bezel and knob, and installed a Digital readout and a big Chrome knob. The radio didn't work and the digital readout was shot, so I weasled it out of the seller for a few bucks and happily carried it home. This would be one of the first items in the budding Crest Radio Museum, long LONG before it ever moved to Crest! Back then, it was known as the Rat Ranch Radio junkyard. The SB-301 was hopeless and just sat collecting dust for decades. Rigs came and went, but the clunky SB-301 lay in the pile undisturbed. Then, maybe 4 years ago, I decided to build a SB-300 out of scrap parts I had accumulated. Many of these parts would now come from this SB-301 with the funny dial and knob. The main difference between a SB-300 and 301 Receiver is that with the 300, you had to open the cabinet and turn a knob on the inside chassis to select the outboard 6 and 2 meter converters. Heathkit changed this to a front panel switch in the 301. Bit by bit, the 300 began to emerge, and after enough Ebay auctions were won, the new SB-300, like the Phoenix rising from the ashes, had emerged. It worked great and was placed on the shelf. No one would ever know it was built like Frankenstein!

The digital readout bezel and beautiful chrome knob (with the callsign WB6DVQ engraved in it) were tossed in a box never to be seen again.....

In 1979, Dave WB6DVQ reluctantly sold his beloved SB-301 he had so carefully modified at the TRW swapmeet. He had his friend N6BDU, evidently a master machinist, form this knob for him which was the crowning jewel to the SB-301. He had made one of the first Digital Readouts for the normally analog 301, and it worked wonderfully. So it was with great regret he sold it, in need of cash.

Who knows how many hands the radio went through on it's way to me, but they weren't gentle. The chassis was trashed, parts robbed and digital readout rendered useless. That's why I didn't fix it. But later on, I would use the remnants of this very chassis to build yet another SB-301, which sits in the Museum today, as a 100% stock radio. The knob was still in the box bottom.

Dave was doing a search of his old callsign on Google when he came across a defunct website I had made several years back for the Crest Radio Museum. I had taken a photo of the process of gutting the 301 to make

the 300 and it showed the beautiful knob. The website was taken down after some rat bastards made cruel and uncouth comments about my wife on it. Not being a Webmaster, the site never reappeared. There was just too much ridicule on how the Museum was stacked up. Hey! If I had a giant building, I could display the rigs neatly and nicely. But for now, they are stacked floor to ceiling in my living room (and dining room, hallways, etc. etc)

Dave wrote me to see if the Knob still existed. Being a PACKRAT, I NEVER EVER throw anything away, and I found the knob quickly. It was polished up a bit and put in a box to mail back to him. Dave would have his Knob back after nearly 30 years. And it was really of no use to me. I had thought of finding a lathe and turning out the front of it to remove the call, so I could use it on a radio, but never did. So it stayed virgin and in the same condition as the day it was made. There is no other knob in the world like it, and it really deserves a place in the Crest Radio Museum as a piece of Ham history, but I sent it back to Dave. He needs it more than I do. I guess I would feel the same way if I had a knob that said WA6MHZ on it.

In other news, here are 3 new radio additions to the Museum. The bottom left is a National NC-125.

Another Ebay special, this was advertised as working great, but it was a toast. Countless hours of troubleshooting found several shorted caps and blown tubes, and finally it began to play. The BFO still doesn't work, but I ran out of time to fix it. Works just OK on AM for now. The little white radio to the right was even more trashed. People on Ebay really unload some hopeless causes, and this is one of them. Last week, I finally procured all the tubes that were blown in it, and now I can begin the rebuild process to get it to work. This is a Hallicrafters S-41W. The rig on top is a fairly common

Swan 240 I picked up at the Chino Hills swapmeet for \$10! TEN BUCKS for a HF rig! It needed a meter, an OD3 and a switch, and now it should play. Where else can you get a HF rig for TEN BUCKS? Not pretty but not expensive either. Going to TRW the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Will see what I can ferret from there, but I will have my WIFE along on the trip, so that will hamper the boat anchors I can acquire. 73

—  
Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ  
Curator  
Crest Radio Museum



Photos on page 12

# Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

*"Oprah's Book Club Selects*

*National Electrical Code"*

*Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the spring of renewal in Cycle 24 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul".*

A recent development has caught celebrity watchers and members of the fire prevention and electrical engineering community by surprise. Oprah Winfrey, the nationally known talk show host and noted celebrity has chosen the *"National Electrical Code"* as Oprah's selection for "Oprah's Book Club".

Many in Oprah's group of followers were surprised by the selection of the *"National Electrical Code"* (NEC), a U.S. standard for the safe installation of electrical wiring and equipment. Contacted at offices of the National Fire Protection Association, NFPA President and Chief Executive Officer James M. Shannon speculates regarding Oprah's selection of NEC as the *"What We're Reading Now"* book. "The NEC is not what immediately comes to mind when one thinks of titles being read and discussed by followers of Oprah, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Oprah & Friends*, or *Oprah's Book Club*. For example, Oprah's latest picks include *'Dine and Dish'* - recipes for gatherings and helpful hints for the host, and *'The Pillars'* - a best-seller about one town's quest to build a Gothic cathedral. We at NFPA welcome Oprah's selection of NEC and relish the new-found notoriety, a result of being selected by Oprah's Book Club."

Shannon adds: "The National Electrical Code is part of the National Fire Codes series published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and is a registered trademark of the National Fire Protection Association. While the NEC is not itself U.S. law, NEC use is commonly mandated by state or local law, as well as in many jurisdictions outside of the United States. The National Electrical Code codifies the requirements for safe electrical installations into a single, standardized source".

Asked about the timing of the Oprah selection, Shannon suspects the selection of NEC may have been initiated in part by "...an unusual and sudden increase in interest in electronics and radio-related topics among United States high school and grade school children." Some believe this increase to be the result of an emphasis on mathematics and physics in grammar and high schools. The interest in radio-related topics parallels a recent surge in growth in numbers of licensed Radio Amateurs.

There is additional irony in the selection of NEC by Oprah's Book Club. Many in Oprah's audience of loyal followers are centered on home, family, and kitchen - especially during the holiday season. The NFPA reports that December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. During 2005, an estimated 15,600 home structure fires started by candles were reported to local fire departments. These fires resulted in an estimated \$539 million in property damage. In addition, three in 10 reported home fires start in the kitchen - more than any other place in the home. During the same year, 210 Christmas tree fires in U.S. homes resulted in \$12.1 million in property damage. The interest in NEC among Oprah's followers occurs at a time of growing interest in home safety and fire-safety related topics.

Additionally, interest in The National Electrical Code has not been limited to grown up readers. Oprah's Book Club has developed a children's version of the NEC, along with it's own cartoon mascot - "Pluggie", affectionately known to legions of school children who have been introduced to the code through Oprah's efforts. The creation of King Productions cartoon illustrator Paige Turner, the NEC cartoon mascot "Pluggie" has become an instant hit among school age children.

The interest among children in the NEC has caught fire professionals and fire-researchers completely by surprise. Recently *"Chicken Noodle Soup"* was invited to view a screening of Oprah's Book Club program, being presented to a group of electrical engineers and fire safety professionals at headquarters of the National Fire Protection Association, in Quincy, Massachusetts. The assembled audience of professionals gathered around a closed-circuit video display to watch the classroom introduction of the Children's NEC.



Continued on Page 11

## Chicken Noodle Soup Continued

The engineers sat transfixed as a group of second graders recited the "Pluggie" *National Electrical Code Pledge*. The children intoned *"On my honor, I'll do my best, to do my duty, to always support the National Electrical Code."* A teacher then called on the obviously excited second grade students. The teacher, Mrs. Harris, a veteran second grade teacher at Marconi Elementary asks the children "Use class 3 grade conduit for a roof top installation?" the young audience chants in unison "No, no, no..." Harris continues, "Use 10 amp circuit breaker for a residential laundry installation?" The student's chanting continues; "No, no, no..." Then it's time for individual questions. Mrs. Harris asks "Can any of you tell me about Class 3 conduit?" The group of children erupts with "Oh, oh, oh, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Harris, I know, I know" A child is selected. "Tommy, what do you think about that Class 3 conduit?" Tommy jumps to his feet and recites the correct answer. "Mrs. Harris, Class 3 conduit is OK for above ground use, only where there is no earth-ground contact." The teacher responds "Good job, Tommy".

The National Fire Protection Association serves as the world's leading advocate of fire prevention and is an authoritative source on public safety. NFPA's 300 codes and standards influence every building, process, service, design, and installation in the United States, as well as many of those used in other countries. NFPA's focus on true consensus has helped the association's code-development process earn accreditation from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The mission of the international nonprofit NFPA is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus on codes, standards, research, training and education. NFPA membership totals more than 81,000 individuals from around the world and more than 80 national trade and professional organizations.

*Editor's note: Chicken Noodle Soup readers are reminded that "Oprah", "The Oprah Winfrey Show", and "Oprah's Book Club" are registered trademarks of Harpo, Inc. "Pluggie" and "The National Electrical Code Pledge" are copyright 2008 by "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul", All Rights Reserved.*

Morris AZ6CW

## From The President Continued

working with everyone this past year to accomplish ARCEC's goals and look forward to another Fun and Radio Active year.

Thank you to all who paid your 2009 membership dues during the September 1, 2008 to December 1, 2008 Membership Drive. As you all know, beginning January 1, 2009, everyone's membership dues will be due on December 31<sup>st</sup>. This means that everyone's dues for 2009 are due on December 31, 2008. If you have not already paid your ARCEC Membership Dues for 2009, please do so as soon as possible so that we can complete the 2009 Budget.

Please join us for our annual Christmas Party on December 16, 2008 at Home Town Buffet on Main Street in El Cajon at 6:00 p.m. Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

73

Paul Rios, KC6QLS  
President





## Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello all,

As I write this month's article, once again wildfires are raging across southern California; four counties have fires burning out of control, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Orange, and Riverside Counties are fighting wildfires. Are we next? Our club is in the process of offering the El Cajon Fire Department help, similar to our agreement with CAL FIRE.

This afternoon, I heard a CERT team in Ramona doing "damage assessment." After the drill, they were reminded that they are on alert in case of a fire or fires in our county.

On November 13, San Diego County took part in a statewide drill called Golden Guardian. According to the news, five million people took part in the drill, including almost all of the county hospitals and cities in our county, other agencies, and Padre Dam Municipal Water District. Paul, KC6QLS and Steve, KO4QT, staffed CAL FIRE. Mike, KG6TDP and I, Rich, N6NKJ, were out at the Padre Dam District Offices for back up communications. Paul and Steve at CAL FIRE were able to talk to Mike and myself on simplex and single sideband at the Padre Dam District Offices. With all of the different agencies our club is involved with, we are going to need more volunteers. We need your help.

Our county has had several devastating wildfires over the last several years, and there are not nearly enough Ham Radio Operators available to help man the hospitals, evacuation centers, CAL FIRE, Padre Dam, or the many other places that will need trained

Ham Radio Operators. A.R.E.S; CERT; R.A.C.E.S; REACT; Red Cross; Salvation Army and all the other groups who will be needed in case of another wildfire or a disaster, will not be able to provide 24/7 help unless we have volunteers.

That's it for this time. But as always, please remember all of our brave men and women in uniform, who are defending our country.  
73'S, Rich, N6NKJ

---

### Photos from CREST Museum



Custom Knob



SB-301

# Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



## Welcome New Members:

John Sanders	KI6ONC	WAMO #1769
Betty Sanders	WB6PEC	WAMO #1770
Conrad Bruderer	KG6HXS	WAMO #1771
Suzanne Bruderer	KG6IEG	WAMO #1772
Adams Bruderer	KI6SMX	WAMO #1773
Stephanie Early	KI6DKP	WAMO #1774
Sarah Early	KI6DKL	WAMO #1775
Ben Early	KI6GEH	WAMO #1776

The following badges are ready for pick up at the Next Meeting:

N6FRX	KF6AHX	KI6KTZ
KI6SYO	KG6HBX	KI6NHK
KI6UYA	K6JHD	

The 2009 Membership Drive ends on December 1, 2008. Beginning January 1, 2009, everyone's membership dues will be due on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the proceeding year. This means that everyone's dues for 2009 are due on December 31, 2008. If the dues you paid in 2008 extend in to 2009, you will pay prorated dues for 2009 based on the month your dues expire. If you have not already paid your ARCEC Membership Dues for 2009, please do so as soon as possible so that the 2009 Budget can be done. If you have any questions about your dues, please email me at [kc6tbg@cox.net](mailto:kc6tbg@cox.net) or see me at the meeting.

The 2009 ARCEC Roster will be available at the February 2009 meeting. If you do not wish to be published on the 2009 ARCEC Roster, please email me at [kc6tbg@cox.net](mailto:kc6tbg@cox.net) regarding what information you do not want published.

The 2009 ARCEC Roster is for club use only. However, please do not use this club roster to contact club members at the telephone numbers and addresses listed on the roster for the purpose of working a WAMO. The Rules for working WAMO are listed on the website and must be followed in order to receive WAMO Certificates. Also, copies of the WAMO Rules are available at club meetings.

73, Ann, KC6TBG

For new members who join during the year, the dues for the year they join will be prorated through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they join, and the next years dues will be due on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they join. The Dues Payment Schedule will be as follows:

## Individual Dues Membership:

\$18.00 per year (\$1.50 per month):

January	\$ 18.00	July	\$ 9.00
February	\$ 16.50	August	\$ 7.50
March	\$ 15.00	September	\$ 6.00
April	\$ 13.50	October	\$ 4.50
May	\$ 12.00	November	\$ 3.00
June	\$ 10.50	December	\$ 1.50 *

\*plus \$18.00 for the following year

## Family Dues Membership:

\$30.00 per year (\$2.50 per month):

January	\$ 30.00	July	\$ 15.00
February	\$ 27.50	August	\$ 12.50
March	\$ 25.00	September	\$10.00
April	\$ 22.50	October	\$ 7.50
May	\$ 20.00	November	\$ 5.00
June	\$ 17.50	December	\$ 2.50 *

\*plus \$30.00 for the following year

Ann, KC6TBG  
Membership Chair



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## Home Brew Photos





## Ask an Elmer Continued

Microphone with boom. On the outside, we installed a 100 foot US Tower and a Steppir Antenna, and to turn the beam we used a Ham-V Rotor with the DCU-1 Pathfinder Control.

After five days of installation and adjustments, the station went on the air. The first contact we made was a small island in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Madagascar and it was a 5R8 call. The next contact was in the Atlantic Ocean off the Southeastern tip of South America, another island called South Orkeny, and it was a VP8 call. Both contacts RST Report were 5/9. After this we christened the station a true DX station.

Ok, it's your call. Where do you fit in? Please let me know if this helps you or if you have more questions. Next month's question, "On the Road with Amateur Radio, what radio is best for me?"

73

Elmer A. Ham

Please submit your thoughts to [WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net](mailto:WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net) and the Elmer's will answer with your feedback. Also, please send in any question that you might have.

### Information and Resources:

HRO "The Candy Store" <http://www.hamradio.com/> And Tom KM6K QRZ <http://www.qrz.com/site.html>

*Options: Can be very expensive but are fun to have! Get them before you can't find them or they are discontinued.*



## Secretary's Report Continued

### Home Brew submittals were:

Novice: Axel offered a T hunt antenna.

Kit: John, WA6L offered a CW QRP  $\frac{3}{4}$  watt transmitter

Antenna: Larry, AD6AV offered a multiband mobile band antenna (10-40m)

Tom, W5COM offered a 2, 6, 17, 20, 40, 80m *Tak Tena*

Expert (Extra): Pat, WA6MHZ offered two projects; 10 m beacon complete with battery pack and CW key; APRS weather station with gel cell battery complete with J pole antenna.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael P. Maston, N6OPH

Recording Secretary for N6ERD



Rich, N6NKJ giving Hollis, KI6PKX an HT to use. Boy he was happy!

## Ham of The Year Nominations 2008

I nominate Paul Schmidt, K6PKS, as Ham of the Year for 2008. Paul has been a club member for some time and is our T-Shirt/Hat Chair. Realizing the club's goal to raise money for amateur radio equipment for CAL Fire, Paul was instrumental in the ARCEC receiving the \$2,500.00 donation from SURF. His efforts helped the ARCEC reach its fund raising goal and led to the purchase of the radio equipment for CAL FIRE. Paul's dedication to the ARCEC is what makes him stand out as my nomination for 2008 Ham of the Year.

Linda, KI6JUD

---

I nominate Tom Christian, N6TNC, as Ham of the Year for 2008. Tom is the ARCEC Member who dared to call our President with the wild idea and question about would the ARCEC want a 100' Communications Tower Trailer, which prompted an enthusiastic AYes!@ by our President and resulted in a lot of work for Tom. He immediately became the primary contact and negotiator, and through his efforts, the Navy donated the Communications Tower Trailer to the ARCEC. And what a coincidence! Another one of our members just happened to have worked on this same tower for 10 years while in the Navy! These two members became the trainers on how to use the tower and the ARCEC now has 10 Certified Communications Tower Team Members. Tom's foresight, willingness to dream big and follow through on his ideas is why I am nominating him for the 2008 Ham of the Year.

Ann, KC6TBG

I nominate Steve Weed, KO4QT, as Ham of the Year for 2008. As Vice President, Steve has done a great job lining up the program speaker for each of our meetings. As Field Day Chair, he led us through a very successful and fun weekend where we had seven stations, used the computer software logging program, had extra radio equipment and antennas, and had a Field Day T-Shirt Contest featuring our club's own Big Green Spider. Additionally, Steve participated in the Del Mar Fair Kids Best Booth, the Fire Station House, the Fall Festival, and the Mother Goose Parade. He is active on the VIP CAL FIRE Red Flag Patrol and volunteered at CAL FIRE during the Golden Guardian Exercise. Steve also worked with our President and Tom throughout the process of obtaining our communications tower from the Navy, developing the Tower Guidelines and Safety Rules, and he is a Certified Communications Tower Team Member. Steve's positive attitude and dedication to the ARCEC this past year is evident, and this is why I believe he should be Ham of the Year for 2008.

Lisie, KI6EEK

---

I nominate Tom Bryan, W5COM, for Ham of the Year because he creates antennas for not only himself but also for other individuals in the club. He is interested in a variety of unique antennas and takes the time to explain how to build them to all of us. Tom has always got a joke to tell, a smile on his face, and he is fun to be around and that is why I nominated him for Ham of the Year.

Richard, NJ6F

## Ham of The Year Nominations 2008

I nominate Mike Maston, N6OPH, for Ham of the Year for the year of 2008. I feel that Mike Maston, N6OPH should be Ham of the Year for 2008 because he has been a very active member of this club for many years; holding various positions, including president, secretary, parliamentarian, and safety officer for several past Field Days. Also, Mike was the one who, after our club was accused of breaking into and stealing some items from our Field Day Site, went to the site, completed an investigation and it was determined that it was not one of our members who broke into the building and stole property. Thus, Mike's efforts cleared the accusations that were made against our club. Mike is always willing to go that extra mile on behalf of the club and that is why I feel he should be Ham of the Year.

Rich, N6NKJ

---

I nominate Mike Oberbauer, KG6TDP for Ham of the Year because he gives a lot of time to the club. He runs the WAMO Net twice a week, every week for the whole year. He also participated in Field Day, the San Diego Kids Best Fair Booth, the Fire Station Open House, the Fall Festival, and the Mother Goose Parade. He is also a member of the tower team. Mike is always willing and ready to help and that is why I believe he should be Ham of the Year.

Michael, AE6CQ

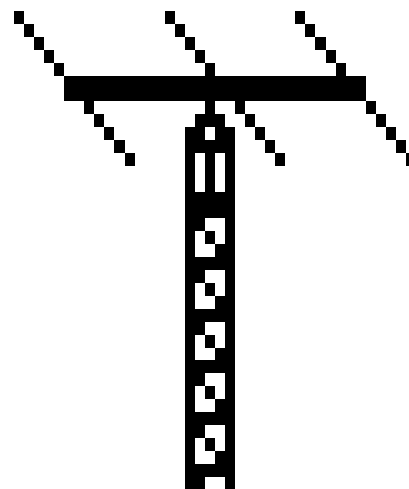
I nominate Gordon Shackelford, AE6QW, for Ham of the Year for 2008 because year after year he has given of his time and talents to teach the Extra Theory Class and the General Class. I was a successful student and worked my way up to Extra thanks to Gordon. He spent a great deal of time preparing the material for the classes and made the subject interesting and fun. His willingness to continue to teach others and share his knowledge makes him my choice for Ham of the Year.

Floyd, AF6BC

---

I nominate Axel Bruderer, KI6RRL, for Ham of the Year because he is a young man, 12 years old, who not only studied to get his Tech Ham License but also up-graded to general within three months. He then applied with the Club Board to get and run his own Donut Net on Monday Night on the club repeater. I feel Axel is highly motivated and is a great example to all of us.

Gary, W6GRK





Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon  
P.O. Box 50  
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Mike Maston  
N6OPH  
(619) 296-9067

Please Visit Our Website at  
[www.WA6BGS.org](http://www.WA6BGS.org)



#### VEC Testing Sites

1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 <sup>th</sup> or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info  
from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)